



Building a Better Memorial

Project Team Working to Finalize Memorial Unit Prototype

Amidst the fundraising, site preparation and other project activity, the Pentagon Memorial design team is also hard at work making sure that the design for the memorial units is refined before construction begins.

Since the submission of the original memorial concept, the design work on the memorial units (commonly referred to as “benches”) has included some drastic weight reduction. While the benches will still look exactly as they appear in current renderings, new calculations have shown that the units will now weigh considerably less than initially expected. The designers have also been working on the finish that will constitute the top of the memorial units.

Meanwhile, the team has been conducting extensive testing on the water circulation patterns in the reflecting pools that will be located under each of the 184 benches. For instance, they have been working on determining the best location for the plumbing nostrils in order to achieve the desired “ripple effect” in the pools.

The designers traveled to Santa Cruz, CA to visit the plant where the pools are being developed and also experiment with various lighting options for the reflection pools. They reviewed conventional incandescent lighting solutions, but also looked at more environmentally friendly alternatives, such as fiber optic, LED and induction lamps. A lighting mock-up showed that a single light source met the design intent, but preliminary tests produced lights that were too yellow and too blue. “We’re looking for the whitest and clearest light possible,” said Jill Dowling, the design manager for Centex Lee, the project’s design-build team. The team has found a light fixture that they are now testing for use in the memorial units’ reflecting pools. These fixtures are not only being evaluated for correct light color, but also for bulb life, which will have an impact on costs associated with bulb replacement and maintenance. Current tests of the light fixtures suggest an exceptionally long bulb life.



Designer Keith Kaseman explains the process of the memorial units’ weight reduction.



Memorial designer Julie Beckman presents gravel and bench-top samples at the October meeting.

Centex Lee is anticipating the first memorial unit prototype to be ready by early 2005. “We’re right on track with the memorial unit design,” said Julie Beckman, one of the memorial’s original concept designers. “After so many hours viewing our progress on a computer screen, we’re excited about seeing the prototype.”



PENTAGON MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER

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Rosemarie Dillard (third from left) and Jim Laychak (far right) of the Pentagon Memorial Fund with the individuals who presented checks at the October meeting.

OCTOBER FUNDRAISING

October was a strong month for donations to the Pentagon Memorial Fund. Among the highlights was the Pentagon Brats and Music Festival, an event that featured music and celebrity appearances. About \$33,000 was raised in connection with the event. An additional minimum of \$38,000 was donated during the Oct. 29 Pentagon Memorial Team meeting by several companies and individuals, including CVS, Get Croppin' Scrapbooking, Fort America, Gear, the Kathy Harty Gray Dance Theater, Together for Freedom and 9/11 family members.

**For more fundraising information, visit
www.pentagonmemorial.net**

Visit our web site at <http://memorial.pentagon.mil>